

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on August 25, 2003. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 6-9, and 15-18 are allowable. Applicants gratefully accept the allowability of claim 4 now that said claim is made dependent on claim 1. Applicants gratefully accept the allowability of claims 2 and 20, now that claim 2 is amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Applicants gratefully accept the allowability of claims 3, 5, and 19, now that claim 3 is amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Claims 2-4 have been amended, without the introduction of new matter, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 1-9 and 15-20 are in the application.

Certain claims herein were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103 and 112, on pages 2-4 of the Office Action. Applicants do not necessarily agree with those rejections as stated by the Examiner, nor do Applicants necessarily agree with the Examiner's response to arguments on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Nevertheless, solely in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims 2-4 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Prompt allowance of this application is therefore respectfully solicited.

Serial No. 09/787,793
Docket No. 1752-0143P

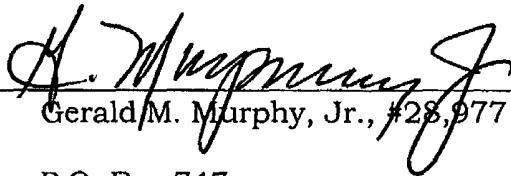
If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

GMM/RG *Rf*
1752-0143P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000